

of Darrang District, Assam. This was in the same area, and at a similar time that the Pigmy Hogs *Sus salvanius* were caught.

When I examined the Hispid Hare, it had been in captivity for four weeks. The specimen had lost its left hind-leg, but otherwise was in quite good condition. It had been maintained on Dhoob grass, *Cynodon dactylus* with the roots kept on, and soaked dried peas; when offered lettuce, cabbage, carrot or cucumber they had been left untouched.

The most distinguishing characteristic of the Hispid Hare is the small size of the ears. The colour of the pelage is dark brown and blackish with numerous scattered whitish bristly hairs. The dimensions of the adult male examined were as follows :- Nose tip to base of tail 18"; shoulder height 7"; tail $\frac{1}{2}$ "; ear $2\frac{1}{4}$ ". The specimen was housed on an earthen floor, and as Tate (1947) states, that although these animals are reputed to make burrows the claws seem to be too long and slender for digging. There had been no signs of the specimen doing any digging in the earth during its month in captivity, although it has proved to be of a nervous disposition, and in keeping with the majority of *Lepus* species has an extreme tendency to flight when alarmed.

If, as advised for *Sus salvanius*, a comprehensive evaluation of the habitat in the Mangaldai foothill area of Assam, and a professional capture programme is embarked upon, it is recommended that the Hispid Hare should be included in this programme.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
JERSEY WILDLIFE PRESERVATION TRUST,
JERSEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS,

JEREMY J. C. MALLINSON

August, 1971.

REFERENCES

- SIMON, NOEL (1967): Mammalia, Survival Service Commission Red Data Book. Morges, Switzerland. TATE, G. H. H. (1947): Mammals of eastern Asia. MacMillan, New York.

2. REACTION OF CHITAL [*AXIS AXIS* (ERXLEBEN)] TO JUNGLE CAT *FELIS CHAUS* GULDENSTAEDT

In March 1970 I had occasion to note the response of Chital to the presence of the Jungle Cat, in Corbett National Park. In the Dhikala area of the sanctuary grazing herds of Chital (30, 25, 25 & 40 in strength), were observed near a ground salt lick on a few occasions (dates: 8/iii, 10/iii, 11/iii & 15/iii). On seeing the cat, the Chital raised their head and with the tail upraised gave the alarm call. A few individuals scratched the ground with their fore legs. Afterwards 3 or 4 Chital, normally headed

by a young male walked towards the cat giving periodic calls. More Chital joined the group and gradually drove the cat out of the grazing area. Other members of the herd either pause to see what is happening or continue to graze.

Chital also give the alarm signals: calls, raised tail, and pause from grazing on the approach of the mongoose *Herpestes edwardsi* Hodgson.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to the Director, Zoological Survey of India and the Officer in Charge of this Station for providing the opportunity to make the study trip.

NORTHERN REGIONAL STATION,
ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
13 SUBHASH ROAD,
DEHRA DUN,

R. K. BHATNAGAR
Assistant Zoologist

September 26, 1970.

3. A FOURSOME OF BARKING DEER, *MUNTIACUS MUNTJAK* (ZIMM.)

Barking deer are by nature solitary animals. Occasionally a pair may be seen with a fawn but association of more than three individuals is seldom seen. It is therefore of interest to note that on March 16, 1969, four adults were seen together in a small area at the edge of a rather sharply circumscribed patch of forest by the side of the palace at Kuttikanum, approximately 4 km. to the southwest of Peermade in the Cardamom Hills (Kottayam District), Kerala State. The time was 7.30 a.m. and they were feeding peacefully, standing about two or three metres apart. Spotting the observer they bolted back into the forest, all in the same general direction. The reason why the four were together is probably because the patch of jungle is totally isolated from other areas with sufficient cover.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
SOUTHERN REGIONAL STATION,
MADRAS-4,

G. U. KURUP

February 7, 1970.